News briefs
The American Israelite (1874-2000); Jan 9, 1992;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The American Israelite
pg. 6

News briefs

Second ship brings olim to Haifa

TEL AVIV (JTA)—A ship carrying 387 immigrants from the republics that formally constituted the Soviet Union arrived Monday in the port of Haifa.

Ten days earlier, 447 olim disembarked in Haifa from the Greek passenger liner Mediterranean Sky. The ship has been chartered by a British Evangelical group that believes the return of the Jewish people to their ancestral homeland will speed the coming of the Messiah.

Both times, the ship left port in the Ukrainian city of Odessa.

The group is expected to bring a third shipload of immigrants to Israel soon.

The ship is not returning empty, according to Jack Padwa, one of two Israeli businessmen involved in the venture. The Mediterranean Sky will return to Odessa with 15 former immigrants and several dozen tourists.

Israel's religious on political right

TEL AVIV (JTA)—Israel's Orthodox community is now firmly ensconced at the right end of the political spectrum, according to a new poll released by the Modi'in Ezrachi public opinion institute.

A full 70 percent of Israel's haredi, or ultra-Orthodox, community, and 60 percent of the mainstream Orthodox population now define themselves as politically right-wing. By contrast, 28 percent of secular voters define themselves as right-wing.

But according to the survey, most of the public, including a large part of the religious sector, opposes religious legislation.

The survey polled 1,287 Israelis, including those in kibbutzim, army camps, settlements in the administered territories and new immigrants.

U.S.S.R.'s end affects Cuba's Jews

NEW YORK (JTA)—For the 892 Jews of Cuba, the disappearance of their country's protector and patron, the Soviet Union, means pretty much what it means for the other 10 million inhabitants of the island: shortages.

In a recent interview here, Moises Asis, Cuba's lone teacher of Judaism, said that even in Havana, where 83 percent of Cuban Jews live, Cubans must wait in long lines for most goods. With fuel scarce, cars and buses are becoming increasingly rare sights.

This has taken a toll on Jewish communal life, which revolves around four synagogues and a community center.

Australian Jews unsure of Keating

SYDNEY, Australia (JTA)—Australian Jews are uncertain whether their concerns will receive the same sympathetic attention from the new prime minister, Paul Keating, as they did from his predecessor, Bob Hawke, who was replaced recently by the ruling Labor Party.

Hawke was an unequivocal friend of Israel and was also in the forefront of legislation introduced by his government to allow Australian courts to prosecute suspected Nazi war criminals living in Australia.

Keating, whose chief interest is in economics, is an unknown quantity with respect to such issues. It is thought that Keating's membership in the party faction known as the New South Wales Right means he will support Israel in crucial votes.

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